

WORLD'S LARGEST CAGE HOLDING SYSTEM

Engineering company Horne SA has delivered the world's largest cage holding system to Anglo Coal's Zibulo colliery, between Leandra and Ogies in Mpumalanga, South Africa.

The 80 tonne Levelok, installed late last year was designed and manufactured in South Africa at the company's Spartan factory. A similar, 72 tonne system previously manufactured by Horne SA for Rio Tinto's Palabora copper mine facilitated the short lead time.

Levelok comprises cage guide clamps powered by one or more pneumatic-hydraulic power packs. After holding the cage steady during load transfer, the clamps gradually release their grip at a controlled rate to allow smooth take-up of rope stretch.

The system is the only one in the world to offer rock-steady cage holding combined with an interlock capability that renders impossible any malfunction or accident caused by human error.

It is also the only system with a controlled release mechanism to prevent shocks to the cage and its cargo caused by sudden loading or unloading of the cage rope after clamp release.

Zibulo ordered its 80 tonne Levelok to secure cage position during the loading and unloading of a continuous mining machine and accessories. The system will ensure that there is no tipping or vertical movement that could



Cage for Anglo Coal's Zibulo colliery.

damage the cage, its guides and rollers, or the continuous miner.

Horne SA designed the Zibulo system with eight 10 tonne clamps, one at each cage corner. There is a built-in safety factor of double the rated load.

Power for is supplied by two large power packs (pneumatic to hydraulic intensifiers), one for each set of four clamps.

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